



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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Press Release

Randolph man assaulted by fellow Nursing home patient dies of injuries

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Earlier this evening (September 6, 2017), the victim of an alleged assault and battery that took place on the long-term secure floor /dementia & elopement risk unit of a Randolph nursing facility succumbed to his injuries, according to Norfolk District Attorney Michael W. Morrissey.

The victim, James Schappell, 86, was allegedly bludgeoned by his roommate at the Care One nursing facility on Thomas Patten Drive in Randolph before 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Randolph police were called to the scene. Mr. Schappell was transported to the Boston Medical Center, where he underwent treatment until his passing this evening. Randolph police immediately Tuesday morning notified the State Police Detective Unit at the Norfolk District Attorney's Office. Randolph and State Police, including the Crime Scene Services Section, undertook an investigation.

The man accused of committing the assault, 58-year-old Walter Rice, Jr., was charged with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (a ceramic item) and transported to Quincy District Court for arraignment. Quincy District Court First Justice Mark Coven ordered that Rice be evaluated by the court clinician. Following that evaluation, Judge Coven declined to arraign Rice and sent him for further competency evaluation at Bridgewater State Hospital.

That commitment holds Rice without prospect of release until he returns to court Sept. 21, 2017 for status on the competency evaluation and potential arraignment.

The investigation by Randolph and State Police continues. No further information is expected to be released tonight.